

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00388 070047Z
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMO-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 /037 W
-----026133 071616Z /46 45
R 061201Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6332
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0388

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, LU
SUBJ: CONGRESS OF COMMUNIST WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE
UNIONS: REQUEST FOR ALERT REPORTING

REF: STATE A-1200

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION WITH LUXEMBOURG CGT
PRESIDENT JOHN CASTEGNARO, ECONOMIC OFFICER ASKED WHETHER
LUXEMBOURG UNIONS WOULD CHANGE THEIR PREVIOUS POLICY OF
NOT ATTENDING WFTU CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN PRAGUE APRIL 16.
CASTEGNARO SAID THAT LUXEMBOURG UNIONS NEITHER PARTICIPATE
IN NOR PERMIT OBSERVERS TO ATTEND WFTU EVENTS BECAUSE
THE UNIONS VIEW SUCH EVENTS AS MERELY OCCASIONS FOR
PRAISING THE USSR.

2. CASTEGNARO MADE THE FOLLOWING OTHER POINTS:
A. LUXEMBOURG UNIONS MAINTAIN ONLY LIMITED CONTACTS WITH
EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND WHAT CONTACTS WERE MAINTAINED
WERE DUE LARGELY TO THE FACT THAT IN 1966 THE SOCIALIST
LAV, WHICH HAS 25,000 MEMBERS, HAD ABSORBED THE COMMUNIST
UNION WHICH HAD 2,000 MEMBERS.
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B. THERE HAD BEEN NO INCREASE IN COMMUNIST STRENGTH IN
LUXEMBOURG UNIONS DESPITE A PERSISTENT ECONOMIC RESESSION.
(NOTE: OFFICIALLY, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LUXEMBOURG COM-
MUNIST PARTY (PCL) IS ESTIMATED AT 510, IN ELECTIONS
COMMUNIST STRENGTH AMOUNTS TO ABOUT TEN PERCENT OF THE
POPULAR VOTE AND THE PCL HAS FIVE DEPUTIES IN THE 59
SEAT PARLIAMENT.) LOWENSTEIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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